THE NEW 52!
DC COMICS™
23
NIGHTWING™
HIS FATE...
...in PRANKSTER'S hands!
KYLE HIGGINS
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OCT 2012
RATED T TEEN
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CHICAGO.
THE JOHN HANCOCK BUILDING.
IF WE'RE BEING HONEST, GUYS--
Tower Place
--THIS ISN'T ONE OF YOUR BEST.
GHNNN!
I MEAN, BLOWING OUT THE SKYWALK AND MAKING PEOPLE WALK THE EDGES OF THE HANCOCK?
AS FAR AS CREATIVE DEATH TRAPS GO, I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF YOUR BOSS IS THE ONLY ONE WITH THE CLEVER IDEAS.
GUH!
KRAK
H-HELP!
HELP ME, NIGHTWING! PLEASE!
HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU, DANIELLE! JUST GIMME--
--ONE SEC HERE!
ACK!
YOU TOTALLY HEARD THAT, RIGHT?
MAYBE I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.

I'M... SLIPPING!
YOU PRANKSTER GUYS ARE DOING WONDERS FOR MY IMAGE AROUND TOWN.
WHAK
KRAK
HNNGH!
HKK!
A FEW DAYS AGO, DANIELLE MIGHT HAVE JUMPED, RATHER THAN LET ME SAVE HER.
WHAM
I'M SLIPPING!
WHOA-WHOA--
OKAY, MAYBE THAT'S A STRETCH.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
FWUT
OH GOD!

WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

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NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ

SHOWS ~EHN~ WHAT I KNOW.
TELL YOU WHAT--I'LL FORGIVE YOU *THIS* TIME--
--IF YOU PROMISE TO KEEP ALL FUTURE BUILDING LEAPS TO TEN STORIES OR UNDER.
EVEN WITH THE DECEL LINE, THESE THINGS ARE TOTAL SHOULDER KILL--
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
Mmhm!
OKAY, SO MAYBE SHOULDERS ARE OVERRATED.

OH, MAN...OH, MAN...
YOU'D THINK A BUNCH OF GUYS WEARING THE SAME FACE WOULD BE CLOSER FRIENDS.
NOT THE TYPE TO LEAVE ONE OF THEIR OWN IN SUCH A... PRECARIOUS POSITION.
GO FIGURE.
I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT PRANK--
CUT THE CRAP. I'VE BEEN TEARING THROUGH YOU LOSERS FOR DAYS.
AND THE ONLY THING ANYBODY SEEMS TO KNOW IS THAT "DANNY, THE GUY WITH THE IMPRACTICAL DREADS," IS STILL IN TOUCH WITH THE PRANKSTER.
DO NOT SCREW WITH ME ON THIS, DANNY.
I'M TIRED, SORE, AND ABOUT READY TO CUT YOU LOOSE TO SEE HOW GOOD YOUR BALANCE IS.
WHERE IS HE?
TH-THERE'S AN OLD BREWERY, OUT ON 25TH STREET. O'CONNELL'S. HE STILL USES THE PLACE.
HE'LL BE THERE TODAY.
SEE, DANNY?
HAIRCUTS ASIDE...
...YOU CAN MAKE A GOOD DECISION.
"WHAT'S FOLLOWED IN THE DAYS SINCE THE PRANKSTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT..."

...CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS CHAOS.
PATROLMAN ROBERT DILLON, SEEN HERE, WAS ONE OF ONLY FIVE OFFICERS TO ESCAPE A ROOM FILLED WITH CABLE-CONTROLLED GUNS.
THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN ELECTRONIC ATTACK ON THE TRANSPORTATION GRID, WHERE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AROUND THE CITY WERE OVERLOADED...
...AND EXPLOSIVES AT NAVY PIER TURNED THE FERRIS WHEEL CARS INTO A FIERY GAME OF RUSSIAN ROULETTE.
WITH THE CITY ON LOCKDOWN, AN ALREADY-STRETCHED POLICE FORCE ALSO FACES CHALLENGES AT CITY HALL...
POLICE
POLICE
...WHERE PROTESTORS ARE DEMANDING THE MAYOR GIVE IN TO THE PRANKSTER'S TERMS.
REPAY THE MONEY!
PRANKSTER STOPS WHEN COLE COMES CLEAN!

FOR THE THIRD TIME IN AS MANY DAYS, MAYOR COLE ADDRESSED REPORTERS EARLY THIS MORNING.
WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO STOP THE CHAOS. HOWEVER, THIS OFFICE WILL NOT BOW TO THE WISHES OF A MADMAN.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ACCUSATIONS HE'S LEVELLED AGAINST ME ARE FALSE.
IN ADDITION TO CLAIMS THAT MAYOR COLE EMBEZZLED CLOSE TO 53 MILLION DOLLARS, THE PRANKSTER ALSO ALLEGES THE MAYOR IS PROTECTING ANTHONY "TONY" ZUCCO.
ZUCCO, IF ALIVE, IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A NUMBER OF MURDERS INCLUDING JOHN AND MARY GRAYSON--
--BETTER REMEMBERED AS THE FLYING GRAYSONS OF HALY'S CIRCUS.
THEIR DEATHS, WHICH OCCURRED DURING A SHOW IN GOTHAM CITY, LEFT THEIR ONLY SON, RICHARD, AN ORPHAN.
IF THIS ACCUSATION IS TRUE, THE OBVIOUS QUESTION IS...
...HOW MUCH DID MAYOR COLE KNOW ABOUT ZUCCO'S PAST?
YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO DICK AT ALL, MICHAEL?
I THOUGHT HE WAS AT THE APARTMENT WITH YOU, JOEY.
HE HASN'T BEEN HERE IN A COUPLE DAYS, HE'S NOT ANSWERING HIS PHONE...
...AND NOW THERE'S ALL THIS STUFF ON TV ABOUT THE MAYOR AND HOW HE PROTECTED A GUY WHO KILLED DICK'S PARENTS...

...I'M GETTING WORRIED, MICHAEL.
LISTEN, I'M WITH THE COPS RIGHT NOW. MAYBE THEY CAN, I DON'T KNOW...TRACE HIS PHONE OR SOMETHING?
WHY ARE YOU WITH THE COPS?
THEY GOT A TIP ABOUT A LOCATION PRANKSTER MIGHT HAVE USED. DETECTIVE MORGAN LET ME TAG ALONG WHILE THEY GO OVER THE PLACE FOR EVIDENCE.
OOP-- SPEAK OF THE DEVIL. LEMME SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
BE CAREFUL, MICHAEL.
HOW FAST CAN YOU GET UP TO THE HANCOCK BUILDING?
FIVE MINUTES? MAYBE TEN. WHAT'S GOING ON, DETECTIVE?
THE PRANKSTER'S GUYS BLEW OUT THE OBSERVATION DECK. I'M GETTING INFO THAT PUTS NIGHTWING THERE, TOO.
HEAD OVER AND SEE WHAT KIND OF FOOTAGE YOU CAN GET. THE LAST THING WE WANT PEOPLE THINKING IS NIGHTWING'S SOME SORTA HERO FOR 'EM.
WHAT ABOUT THIS PLACE?
IT'S A TEASE. NOTHING ON THE SWEEPS, AND THERE'S SO MUCH ENCRYPTION ON THE COMPUTERS IT'S A MIRACLE GREG EVEN GOT 'EM TURNED ON.
COULD BE HOURS BEFORE WE FIND ANYTHING USEFUL.
HEY, MORGAN, I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS PLACE WAS SHUT DOWN?
IT WAS.

THEN WHY'S THE *TANK* FULL?
THUMP THUMP
-SNIFF- SMELLS LIKE ALCOHOL...
WHRRRRRR
DID SOMETHING JUST TURN ON?
HOLD ON, I THINK I MIGHT *HAVE* SOMETHING, GUYS...
GREG, WAIT! DON'T CLICK ON ANY--
TK
PSSHHH
OOF!

KA-KOOM
AHH!
KRSSSH
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH H.M?
KNOCK H.M OUT AND BRING HIM TO THE BOAT.
UHHNN..
ONE LEFT?
This can't be good.

At first, I think maybe that dreadlocked freak Danny just got word to the others.
Had them torch the place before I could get here.
That's before I get inside.
HOLY HE...
:KOFF: :KOFF:
ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU MOVE?
YEAH... YEAH, I CAN MOVE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
PRANKSTER TRAP, WE MISSED. THERE'S A K D...MICHAEL PEARSON, THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A "BOAT" PRANKSTER AND HIS--
--YOU,,
WHAT NAME DID YOU JUST SAY?
"WHY DID SHE CHANGE IT?"

GOTHAM CITY
MUNICIPAL BANK
PLEASE, IF YOU'LL JUST STEP BACK--
THERE SHE IS!
WHERE'S SONIA?
DID YOU KNOW HER REAL NAME WAS ZUCCO?
SONIA! SONIA BRANCH!
WHY'D YOU CHANGE YOUR NAME TO BRANCH, SONIA?
D D YOU KNOW YOUR DAD WAS STILL ALIVE? WERE YOU IN ON T?
WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH WALLACE COLE?
I DON'T... I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE...
COME ON, SON A--DON'T YOU WATCH THE NEWS? CHICAGO'S UNDER SIEGE...
...AND YOUR DAD'S A PART OF IT!

WISCONSIN.
HOW DID I NOT SEE IT BEFORE...?
IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?
THEY SHOWED YOUR PICTURE ON THE NEWS. YOU'VE HAD WORK DONE... BUT IT'S STILL YOU.
NANCY, YOU CAN'T LISTEN TO--
WE'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR THREE YEARS, BILLY. YOU THINK I DON'T NOTICE YOU HATE TAKING PICTURES? OR THE WAY YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?
OR THE WAY YOUR EYES GO TO THE CLOSET WITH THE GUN, EVERY TIME SOMETHING WAKES YOU UP?
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE AN IDIOT. DO NOT DO THAT. NOT ANYMORE.
THIS IS WHY WE LEFT CHICAGO, ISN'T IT?
...
YES.
YOU... KILLED THAT GRAYSON FAMILY...?
AND HOW MANY OTHERS?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GO NG HOME.
WE CAN'T GO HOME.
IF THE PRANKSTER'S WHO I THINK HE IS, CH.CAGO'S ABOUT TO GET A LOT WORSE.
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
I CAN'T RISK REACHING O.T AGAIN, NANCY. WE'RE IN THE CLEAR. IF I GO BACK, OR EVEN CALL...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
THIS NIGHTWING GUY HAS BEEN HUNTING ME FOR YEARS. AND NOW WITH THE WHOLE CITY KNOW NG WHO I AM--
SO YOU'RE WIL.NG TO LET PEOPLE DIE BECA.SE GOING BACK MEANS FACING WHAT YOu DID?
THE IRONY'S SO ON THE NOSE, IT'S LAUGHABLE.
WHAT ARE YOU TA.KING ABOUT?
YOU'VE BEEN GIV NG SPEECHES TO O.R SON ALL WEEK ABOUT GROWN.PS "TAK NG RESPONS BILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS."
YOU'RE A GOOD .IAR, BILLY. I'LL GIVE THAT MUCH.
THE SAD PART IS...
...ONE DAY BRIAN'S GOING TO F.GURE IT OUT, TOO.
WOW!
YOU'RE GIVING HIM TO ME?! BUT HE'S YOUR FAVORITE!
I KNOW. BUT IT'S OKAY, I ALREADY PLAYED W TH HIM A LOT. AND 'S DES, I NEVER SHOULDA TAKEN YOUR ROBOT.
WOW... T'ANKS, BRIAN.

CHICAGO.
NOW THAT S...
:NNN:
...A HEADACHE...
HEY! HEY! THEY'RE BACK!
OH, GOD, WHAT ARE THEY--
OH, NO...
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
"THE SITUATION IS ONLY GETTING WORSE..."

CITY HALL.
...AND EVERY SECOND YOU WASTE--
--PUTS MORE LIVES IN JEOPARDY. WHAT DON'T YOU *UNDERSTAND* ABOUT THAT?
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS I CAN SAY IT--I CAN'T PAY THE MONEY BECAUSE I DON'T *HAVE* THE MONEY. I HAVEN'T STOLEN *ANYTHING*.
STOP LYING, WALLACE.
EUGENE--
I'M *SICK* OF HIS *LIES!*
ARE YOU *REALLY* GOING TO STAND HERE AND THROW AROUND CLAIMS FROM A PSYCHOPATH? BECAUSE IF THAT'S THE CASE, ALDERMAN--
WHAT ABOUT ZUCCO? WE ALL SAW THE PICTURE, WALLACE. WE ALL *RECOGNIZED* BILLY.
OR ARE YOU GONNA TELL US YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHO *HE* WAS, EITHER?
I DON'T CARE *WHAT* YOU DID WITH THE MONEY, WALLACE. *NONE* OF US DO. BUT YOU HAD *BETTER* FIND IT. THE STREETS... THE CITY...

"...ALL THIS IS ON YOU."
THEY KILLED OUR ENGINES!
OH GOD, THE WHOLE YACHT'S SURROUNDED! WE'RE GONNA DIE HERE!
HELP! SOMEBODY HELP!
LOOK AT IT GO. WHAT A TH NG A'BEAUTY.
SORRY, GUYS.
I'm lucky on this one.
GAH!
YOU SHOULDA GOT A BIGGER BOAT.
VROOOOOM
Even knowing where the Prankster was looking, Lake Michigan's a damn big target.
Best I could do was "borrow" a cruiser and start searching.
No idea how many people are on the yacht, or whether Michael's one of 'em.
HELP US! PLEASE!
But it looks like my luck's gonna hold. Even better...

...I think I've got our way out.
NOW I LOVE S'MORES AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY, BUT I'M FRESH OUTTA MARSHMALLOWS.
WHADDYA SAY WE CALL IT A NIGHT?
BLAM
HRK!
HOLY--!
EUGENE!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
The first three rescues go off without a hitch.
But by the fourth trip, my wagon's draggin.'

Can't afford to take a breather.
Not even for Michael.
MY--MY GOD.
ALL RIGHT... GUYS. IT'S... BEEN...
. OoF...
ARE YOU OKAY? IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
JUST GOTTA...CATCH MY BREATH..
BEFORE YOU SAY OR DO ANYTHING...
..LET ME TALK FOR A SECOND.
That voice...
GET OUT OF HERE, MICHAEL! GET SOMEWHERE SAFE!

"THERE'S MORE GOING ON HERE THAN YOU KNOW.
"THERE'S MORE TO THE PRANKSTER."
HELLO, WALLACE. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
WHICH IS WHY, IN ORDER TO SAVE THE CITY, NIGHTWING...
...WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER.
NEXT ISSUE:
THE FINAL SHOWDOWN!

URGENT BULLETIN! Calendar Man Missing! Please transmit information to Channel 52! Channel 52 not responsible for any lost search parties in Gotham City

CHANNEL 52

WELCOME BACK TO *CHANNEL 52.*

I'M ***BETHANY SNOW.*** LET'S GET RIGHT BACK TO OUR MAJOR STORY THIS WEEK.

URGENT BULLETIN! Calendar Man Missing! Please transmit information to Channel 52! Channel 52 not responsible for any lost search parties in Gotham City

GOTHAM UNDERGROUND

THIS SITUATION IN THE SO-CALLED "GOTHAM UNDERGROUND" CONTINUES TO EVOLVE.

ALTHOUGH CONFIRMED REPORTS ARE DIFFICULT TO COME BY, HERE'S WHAT WE DO KNOW.

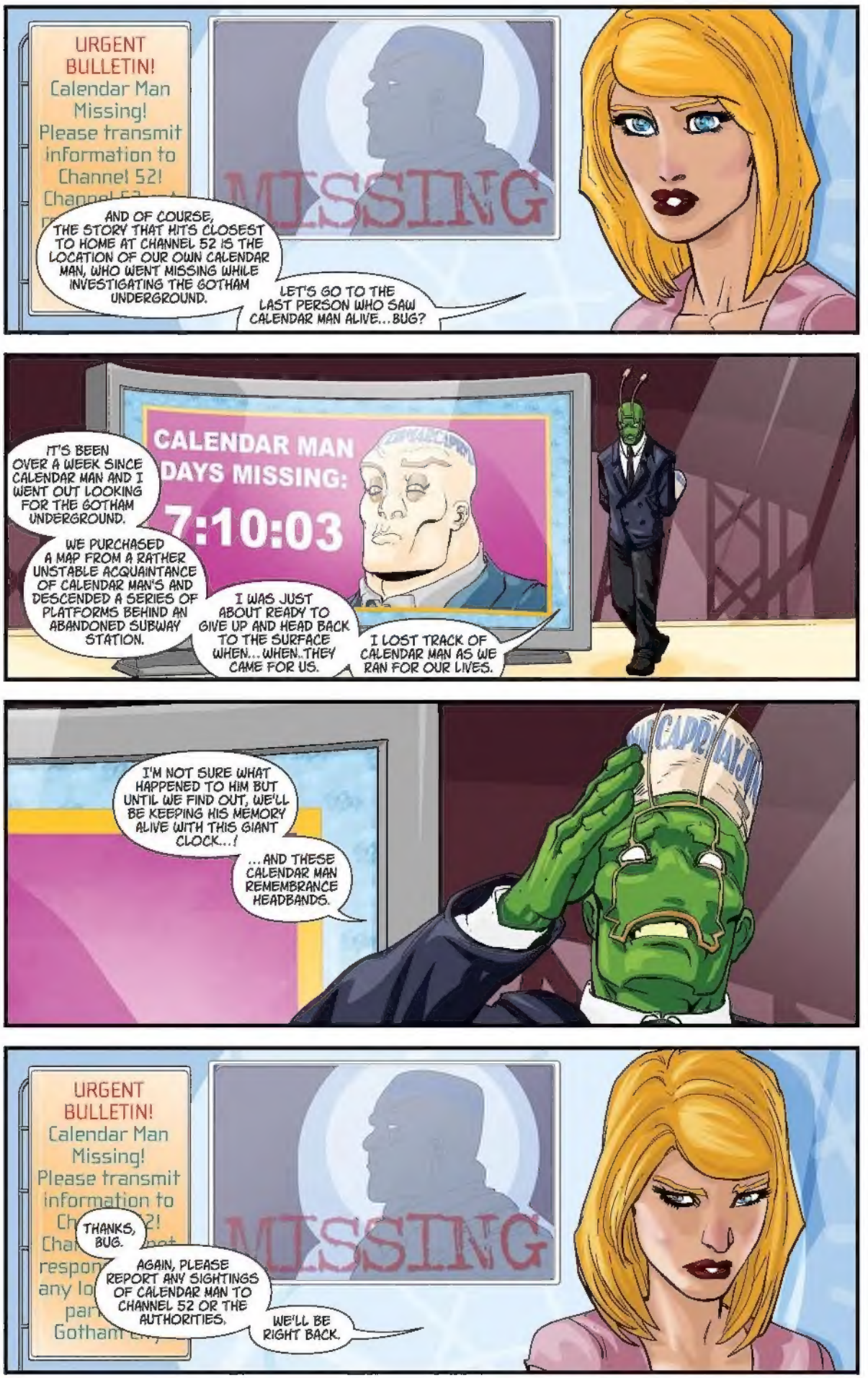
URGENT BULLETIN! Calendar Man Missing! Please transmit information to Channel 52! Channel 52 not responsible for any lost search parties in Gotham City

THERE ARE RUMORS THAT A MASSIVE SYSTEM OF CAVES AND TUNNELS SOMEWHERE UNDER GOTHAM CITY IS BEING RUN BY A LARGE NUMBER OF CRIMINALS.

CATWOMAN'S INVOLVEMENT, IN SEVERAL INSTANCES, HAS MADE HER OUT TO BE A PRIMARY PLAYER, WHILE PROOF OF BLACK MASK'S PART IN THE CITY HAS BEEN HARDER TO FIND.

URGENT BULLETIN! Calendar Man Missing! Please transmit information to Channel 52! Channel 52 not responsible for any lost search parties in Gotham City

THE MORE CHILLING RUMORS OF VIOLENCE AND CULT-LIKE BEHAVIOR ARE TIED TO THE JOKER'S DAUGHTER, WHO HAS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED ABOVE GROUND.


URGENT BULLETIN! Calendar Man Missing! Please transmit information to Channel 52!
MISSING
AND OF COURSE, THE STORY THAT HITS CLOSEST TO HOME AT CHANNEL 52 IS THE LOCATION OF OUR OWN CALENDAR MAN, WHO WENT MISSING WHILE INVESTIGATING THE GOTHAM UNDERGROUND.
LET'S GO TO THE LAST PERSON WHO SAW CALENDAR MAN ALIVE... BUG?
CALENDAR MAN DAYS MISSING:
7:10:03
IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK SINCE CALENDAR MAN AND I WENT OUT LOOKING FOR THE GOTHAM UNDERGROUND.
WE PURCHASED A MAP FROM A RATHER UNSTABLE ACQUAINTANCE OF CALENDAR MAN'S AND DESCENDED A SERIES OF PLATFORMS BEHIND AN ABANDONED SUBWAY STATION.
I WAS JUST ABOUT READY TO GIVE UP AND HEAD BACK TO THE SURFACE WHEN... WHEN..THEY CAME FOR US.
I LOST TRACK OF CALENDAR MAN AS WE RAN FOR OUR LIVES.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM BUT UNTIL WE FIND OUT, WE'LL BE KEEPING HIS MEMORY ALIVE WITH THIS GIANT CLOCK...!
...AND THESE CALENDAR MAN REMEMBRANCE HEADBANDS.
URGENT BULLETIN! Calendar Man Missing! Please transmit information to
MISSING
THANKS, BUG.
AGAIN, PLEASE REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS OF CALENDAR MAN TO CHANNEL 52 OR THE AUTHORITIES.
WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

NAHGA